

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4, 6, and 9-16 are currently pending. No claims have been amended herewith.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-4, 6, and 9-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kamara ("JavuNetwork: Remote Video Production and Storage") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0035875 to Suzuki et al. (hereinafter "the '875 application"), further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,495,291 to Adams (hereinafter "the '291 patent").

Claim 1 is directed to a data-providing apparatus for editing image data in response to a demand transmitted from a data-processing apparatus through the Internet, the data-providing apparatus comprising: (1) first acquisition means for acquiring one or more scenarios, each scenario comprising a plurality of video scenes and each video scene lasting for a predetermined period of time, in response to a demand made by a user of the data-processing apparatus using a web browser; (2) second acquisition means for acquiring a predetermined number of video clips that are used in each scenario, in response to a demand made by the user of the data-processing apparatus using the web browser, wherein the second acquisition means acquires the video clips supplied from another data-processing apparatus other than the data-providing apparatus; (3) user video-data management means for storing said one or more scenarios and said video clips; (4) receiving means for receiving video clips transmitted by the user from the data-processing apparatus through the Internet using the web browser; (5) means for selecting the video clips acquired by the second acquisition means and for randomly allocating the selected video clips to video scenes of a scenario acquired by the first acquisition means until each video scene of the scenario has been randomly allocated a

corresponding one of the video clips; and (6) editing means for editing the video clips that are received by the receiving means and allocated to the video scenes of the acquired scenario.

Regarding the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), the Office Action asserts that the Kamara et al. reference discloses everything in Claim 1 with the exception of means for randomly allocating the selected video clips to video scenes of a scenario acquired by the first acquisition means until each video scene of the scenario has been randomly allocated a corresponding one of the video clips, and relies on the ‘875 application and the ‘291 patent to remedy that deficiency.

The Kamara reference is directed to a Java-based network-centric digital editing application that incorporates streaming technology. As shown in Figure 1, the Kamara reference discloses a network-based video editing system in which users can edit digital media using any web browser. In particular, as shown on page 80 of the Kamara reference, users can have their video digitized and upload the files they want to edit directly to a web server or may obtain stock footage from the web server.

However, as admitted in the outstanding Office Action, the Kamara reference fails to disclose means for selecting the video clips acquired by the second acquisition means and for randomly allocating the selected video clips to video scenes of a scenario acquired by the first acquisition means until each scene of the scenario has been randomly allocated a corresponding one of the video clips, as recited in Claim 1.

The ‘875 application is directed to an image editing device that includes a layout unit for selecting a specific layout example from a plurality of layout examples, and laying out a plurality of image data using the specific layout example. Further, the ‘875 application discloses that the image editing device includes a manual input unit and a correction unit for correcting the layout examples selected by the layout unit based on input from the manual input unit. As noted by the outstanding Office Action, the ‘875 application discloses, in

Figure 15, a display screen for determining the layout of images and for selecting a photograph frame for an image. As shown in Figure 15, the ‘875 application discloses the display of several frames 1104-1108, as well as various choices for the user to change image characteristics. Regarding the displayed frames, the ‘875 application discloses that the user can select among the frames by using a pointing device and that some of the frames can be removed or selected arbitrarily in a random order using the pointing device.

However, Applicants respectfully submit that the ‘875 application fails to disclose means for selecting video clips acquired by a second acquisition means and for randomly allocating the selected video clips to video scenes of a scenario acquired by the first acquisition means until each scene of the scenario has been randomly allocated a corresponding one of the video clips, as recited in Claim 1. In this regard, Applicants note that the ‘875 application is not directed to allocating video clips to video scenes, as required by Claim 1. Rather, the ‘875 application is merely directed to a mechanism for a user to select a photograph frame that would be appropriate for displaying a picture. The ‘875 application is silent regarding randomly allocating video clips to corresponding video scenes of a scenario, as required by Claim 1. While the ‘875 patent mentions the word “random,” the use of that word is completely unrelated to an allocation of items in one group (video clips) to items in another group (video scenes), as required by Claim 1.

The ‘291 patent is directed to a system for decompressing video data streams and providing continuous video data output, the system including an input switch coupled to a plurality of compressed video data input lines, wherein the switch is configured to select input lines and to control the flow of video data to the selected input lines; a plurality of decompression modules coupled to the input switch for decompressing compressed video data received from the input switch; an output switch coupled to the decompression modules, the output switch coupling only one of the decompression modules to the output bus at any

one time; and a controller configured to control the input switch, the decompression modules, and the output switch for selecting which decompression module will receive video data.

The ‘291 patent discloses that the purpose of the ‘291 system is to prevent delays (i.e., blank frames) between old and new video programs when the new video program is being decompressed sufficiently for display.¹ Thus, as shown in Figures 3 and 4, the ‘291 patent discloses a system in which when a decompression circuit 120 is decompressing data, between times T1 and T3, decompression circuit 130 starts to receive data at time T2, which is prior to time T3, such that it is ready to display the decompressed data at time T3. Thus, the ‘291 system provides a method for seamless transition to a new video program. In the passage at column 6 cited by the Office Action, the ‘291 patent merely discloses that the different video clips that are seamlessly displayed can be obtained from larger video sources and that clips having random start times and end times can be extracted from the larger video source. In this regard, the ‘291 patent discloses that, when this is performed, “...decompression will have to begin early enough to decompress the video data stream up to the ‘random’ start point, as all proceeding decompressed video data streams will have to be used to decompress the video data stream up to the chosen start point and then discarded.”² Thus, the ‘291 patent discloses that, if random start and end times are used to extract data from a larger video program, decompression will have to start even earlier for the data prior to the start point.

However, Applicant respectfully submits that the ‘291 patent fails to disclose means for randomly allocating the selected video clips to video scenes of a scenario acquired by the first acquisition means until each scene of the scenario has been randomly allocated a corresponding one of the video clips, as recited in Claim 1. Rather, the ‘291 patent merely discloses that a video clip, which is portion of the video extracted from a larger video

¹ See ‘291 patent, column 2, lines 33-41.

² See ‘291 patent, column 6, lines 14-19.

program, can have an arbitrary start point and an arbitrary end point within the larger video program. Further, the '291 patent is concerned with the seamless transition from one such video clip to another video clip and the proper timing of decompression. However, Applicant submits that Claim 1 requires a system that allocates items from one group (video clips) to items in another group (video scenes) until each scene of the scenario has been randomly allocated a corresponding one of the video clips. Applicant respectfully submits that the '291 patent is silent regarding allocating items from one group to items of another group until all items have been allocated to the second group, as is required by Claim 1. Again, while the '291 patent discloses the word "random," its use is unrelated to the use required by Claim 1. The '291 patent simply does not disclose allocating or assigning clips to scenes. Rather, at most, the '291 patent merely discloses that a clip is defined by a random start and/or end point, but does not disclose that, for example, a first clip is allocated to scene 5, while the second clip is allocated to scene 3, while a third clip is allocated to scene 1, etc.

Thus, no matter how the teachings of the Kamara reference, the '875 application, and the '291 patent are combined, the combination does not teach or suggest means for randomly allocating the selected video clips to video scenes of a scenario acquired by the first acquisition means until each scene of the scenario has been randomly allocated a corresponding one of the video clips, as recited in Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established and that the rejection of Claim 1 (and all associated dependent claims) should be withdrawn.

Independent Claims 9, 10, and 12 recite limitations analogous to the limitations recited in Claim 1. Accordingly, for the reasons stated above, Applicants respectfully submit that a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established and that the rejection of Claims 9, 10, and 12 (and dependent Claim 13) should be withdrawn.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 1, 9, 10, and 12 (and all associated dependent claims) patentably define over any proper combination of the Kamara reference, the '875 application, and the '291 patent.

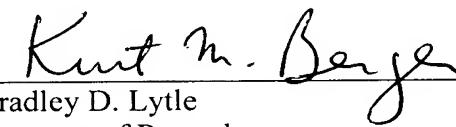
Consequently, in light of the above discussion, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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